

Small Business and Community Sector Organisations Energy Efficiency Loan Scheme



The Tasmanian Greens will provide no interest loans to drive energy efficiency among Tasmania's small businesses and community groups.

The Energy Efficiency Loan Scheme will provide no interest loans to assist eligible small businesses and community sector organisations to purchase and install energy efficiency upgrades to reduce their energy costs. The fund will be established with initial start up funding of one million dollars to provide no interest loans of up to \$10' 000 to eligible businesses.

> THE ISSUE

- Energy efficiency upgrades are one of the most cost effective ways to drive down business costs, and costs for community groups, through lower energy bills.
- Reducing business energy costs can be one of the simplest and most effective ways to increase the efficiency of businesses production at the individual business level, without requiring long term reform efforts.
- An increased uptake of energy efficiency technology will drive employment among Tasmanian installers of energy efficiency businesses and, as a consequence, will create Tasmanian expertise in green, new economy skill sets.

> ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applications will be accepted from:

- businesses that are or will become Tasmanian based and produce or significantly value add to goods or services in Tasmania and are a registered business for the purpose of goods and service tax (GST).
- community and not-for-profit organisations.
- businesses that meet the turnover criteria for the scheme of two million dollars in annual turnover or less.

> TABLE 1: Initiative Expenditure/Investment

> PROJECTS COVERED BY THE SCHEME

Energy efficiency upgrades covered by the scheme include, but are not limited to:

- insulating existing premises to reduce heat loss
- installing energy efficient lighting
- replacing existing heating or cooling infrastructure with more efficient models
- double glazing windows.

Additional energy efficiency projects that have demonstrated utility in reducing business energy consumption will be considered under the scheme.

> DELIVERING OUR PLAN

- The Energy Efficiency Loan Scheme will run alongside, and in tandem with, the existing Renewable Energy Loan Scheme.
 - To be administered by the Department of Economic Development utilising the existing structures in place for the RELS to ensure minimum additional administrative costs are incurred.
- Repayments on the loans will be made through savings on the energy costs of businesses that have taken advantage of the loans.
- Loans of up to \$10' 000 to be spent on energy efficiency upgrades will be considered.
- Loans will be on a no interest basis.
- Repayments on loans will be rolled back into the pool of funds available to businesses under the scheme.

	2013-14 Budget	2014-15 Forward Estimate	2015-16 Forward Estimate	2016-17 Forward Estimate
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
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